THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

BY DR. KENNETH S. FOREMAN

Scripture: Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:7; Psalm 103:8-13; Isaiah 40:18-31; Matthew 11:9; John 4:23-24; 16:30; Acts 17:22-31.
Devotional Reading: Psalm 42.

The Living God

Lesson for January 9, 1955

FOR the next three months the Sunday school lessons will go into the great Christian doctrines. Christian churches are basically agreed about these doctrines. You can go into a church and hear a sermon about the Living God, or about the Holy Spirit, or about Christ, and hardly be able to tell what the denomination of the minister is, from the sermon. Various churches have written creeds. **Dr. Foreman** which are their official interpretation of Scripture. But since these lessons to come are concerned with the Bible rather than with formal creeds, this column will not set forth the special views, if any, of particular churches, but will rather try to point out some of the truths which we all hold in common, and which we derive from the revelation we find in the Scripture.

The Living God

The Bible nowhere tries to prove that God exists. If I were talking to you or writing you a letter I would not waste time trying to tell you that I am a real person. So the Word of God simply assumes that God IS. But that is not nearly enough for a vital faith. Suppose God just IS, like the law of gravitation or the binomial theorem in algebra—quite real but completely blind and uncaring? Suppose he just IS, like the other side of the moon, always there but never to be seen? Suppose God IS, like a block of granite which can be worked on but never does any work? No—by no means! The God of the Bible is the Living God, one who does things. Read for example the first book in the Bible, Genesis. Who is the principal character? Not Adam, not Noah, not Abraham or Joseph, but God. The story of the Bible is the story of the "mighty acts of God." Only the living God can help living men.

God is Spirit

The Greek of John 4:24 can be translated just as correctly "God is Spirit" as "God is a Spirit," and scholars mostly believe the first translation better conveys the meaning. This does not mean you can turn the sentence around and say "Spirit is God." You are spirit, but you are not God. The great dividing line in existence is not between spirit and matter. It is between the one, the only, Creator-Spirit, God on the one side; and created-spirit and created-matter, on the other side. As Creator-Spirit, we can be sure of some facts about God. One is that he is not and does not have a physical body. If he had a body he would (like all bodies) have to be in only one place at one time. If he had a body he would be limited by his body as we all are. But being Spirit he can be, and is, everywhere. Because he is Spirit, Paul can say he is not far from each one of us . . . in him we live and move and are.

God is Father

The Old Testament tells us much about God, but the New Testament tells us more. It is only rarely that God is called "Father" in the Old Testament, but in the New, we find Jesus using the word "Father" about God more than any other one word. There is a sense in which God is Father of all men—a more intimate sense in which God is Father of Christ and of Christians. Consider the words which would have been just as easy to use in beginning the Lord's Prayer: O creator . . . . O Lord Most High . . . Almighty God . . . King of Kings . . . Judge of all the earth . . . But Jesus passes by all those and teaches us to say simply "Our Father" when we speak to the Almighty.

The Father and I Are One

Most important, most distinctively Christian, of all truths that we learn about God in the Bible, is summed up in Jesus' words: "The Father and I are one." The original Greek shows that Jesus did not mean to say he and his Father are one person, one individual; but he did mean to say that if we want to see God we must look into the face and into the mind and heart of Jesus. As Paul later said, we see the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Christians who have given great thought to these things are agreed that any idea of God, any notion we may have about him, must be brought to the test of Jesus Christ. The least we can say is that God is Christ-like.

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Farm Bureau Cites Objectives For Year of 1955

The Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, the state's largest independent farm organization, showed a net gain in membership of 622 farm families for 1954, according to H. G. Blalock, president.

At the end of fiscal 1953, the Federation showed a certified membership of 12,016 families. The present certification shows 12,678, Blalock reported.

Summarizing other activities of the organization during 1954, Blalock said three new county units organized—King and Queen, Pulaski, and Henrico—to bring the VFBF total to 65 county organizations.

The primary effort of the state organization is in the field of farm legislation on a state and national level, Blalock explained, and "We were 89 per cent effective at the state level this year." Blalock continued, that resolutions are sent in from the county organizations each year in November and voted on at the state convention by voting delegates from the member counties.

The 65 county organizations participating in the annual policy development activities reported over 200 meetings held with some 4,500 people attending to discuss and to draft resolutions, Blalock stated.

Blalock named the following as the chief state issues on which Farm Bureau worked and gained satisfactory results:

(1) Establishment of a loan fund of $300,000 for wholesale produce markets in the state;

(2) Bills insuring more accurate weighing of livestock at auction markets; and increased penalty for stealing livestock;

(3) Enactment of bills designed to give better control over rabies;

(4) Adoption of a resolution by the General Assembly calling for an investigation of telephone rates and a study of the reasons why certain sections are being provided with poor, if any, telephone service.

(5) And obtained a resolution calling for a study of the state's forestry and water resources.

Blalock reported that the voting delegates to the 1954 convention adopted 31 resolutions on state and national issues. These will constitute the objectives of the Farm Bureau for 1955, and he listed some of these as:

(1) Establishment of long needed farmers wholesale produce markets;

(2) Continued study of the retail consumers' sales tax as a source of needed revenue to provide for schools, hospitals and other state services;

(3) Repeal of the state law providing for refunds on income taxes;

(4) Obtain legislation under which farmers and others can be assured of the most efficient and equitable use of our valuable water resources;

(5) To insist upon the privilege of handling our school problems concerning segregation according to the wishes of local people without direction or dictation from outside sources;

(6) To work for legislation requiring livestock auction markets to advertise the time of sale and to start at the time advertised;

(7) Work for improvements in the weighing and testing of milk at receiving stations;

(8) To work for inclusion in Federal Milk purchase contracts of a requirement calling for butter fat content at 3.6 per cent instead of 3.25 per cent presently required.

(9) To insist that the Federal tax of two cents per gallon on motor fuel be removed in order to make available this source of revenue as needed by the states to provide the expansion and maintenance highways on our traditional pay you-go plan.

The Farm Bureau membership goal for 1955 is 16,750 families.

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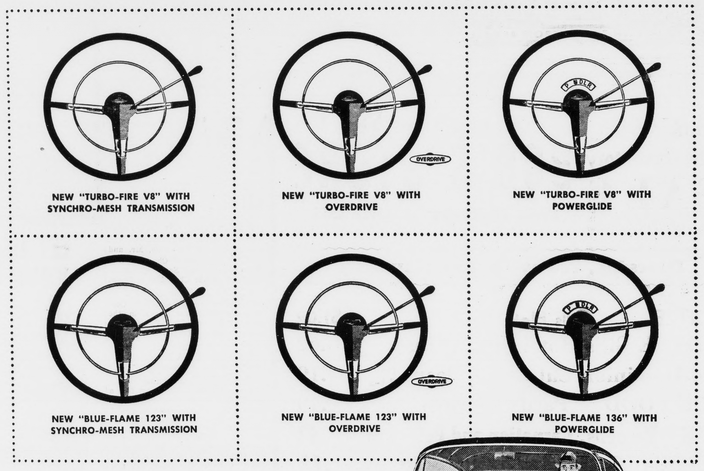

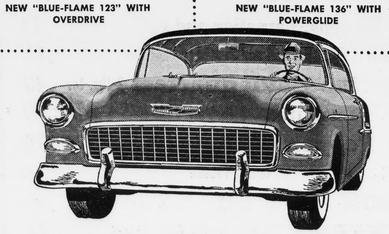

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Stonewall, Jan. 3.- Happy New ... everyone. The New Year is ...ing off real pretty. Hope it will ...y pretty.

...o many farmers around here are ...ing tobacco in Lynchburg to-...y. Hope the prices will stay real ...d the rest of the selling season, ...it is hard work to make tobacco.

...rs. R. H. Thornhill has returned ...home after a visit with her ...in-law and daughter, Mr. and ... Floyd Weidman and baby girl ... Waynesboro.

...r. and Mrs. Joe Stephenson ... daughter, Janet Anne, of Nor... spent the week-end with her ...nts, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chick. ...y also visited her sister, Mrs. ...ry Beard and family, at Appo...tox.

...r. and Mrs. Irby Wheeler visit... their son and daughter-in-law ... and Mrs. Ben Wheeler over the ...kend to see their new grand... born to Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler ... week at the Virginia Baptist ...pital.

The Rev. W. M. Black, of Fam... preached at the Hebron Baptist ...urch on Sunday morning. He, and ... daughter, Mary Rives, are al... welcome here.

...r. and Mrs. Howlette Drinkard, Sr. motored to Staunton on Sunday to take their son, Donald Lee back to school.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Beard and family, of Richmond visited with relatives here and at Appomattox over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stephenson Jr. and Janet Anne, and Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Chick visited Mrs. W. H. Drinkard on Saturday afternoon. Mrs. J. E. Herndon and son, J. E. Jr. and Mrs.B. D. Stratton visited in the same home. So glad Mrs. W. H. Drinkard is improving from an injured shoulder. Hope she will soon be up and well as usual.

We are so happy to know that Mrs. S. E. Anderson is lots better. Hope she will soon be well and back home to her family and her many friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Moore and children were dinner guests of their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Moore on Sunday at Concord.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Thomas and family spent the week-end in Richmond with Mr. and Mrs. Vinson Russell and family. Mrs. Russell is their daughter.

MANY OUT-OF-STATE HUNTERS COME TO VA.

The number of non-residents who are coming into the state to hunt deer and bear is increasing steadily and keeping pace with the increase in deer populations in Virginia.

While most of the big game stamps are bought for the purpose of hunting deer, those holding these stamps also are privileged to shoot bears.

Residents of the counties west of the Blue Ridge profit most from the influx of non-resident big game hunters who numbered 3,453 in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1954. Hundreds of non-resident hunters are now coming into areas where there were none a few years ago for the reason that there were no deer. Increasing numbers of Eastern Virginia hunters also are going to the mountains for their deer hunting.

It has been often predicted that when the deer herds in the mountains reached their full potential, there would be a steady increase in the numbers of hunters from other states who would come into Virginia to hunt them. Many of these sportsmen are coming from Pennsylvania where hunting conditions are becoming increasingly crowded.

HOG ISLAND FEEDING GROUNDS DEPLETED

According to Charles Gilchrist, marshland specialist for the Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, because of the destruction of winter grain crops at Hog Island.. 2,000 acre area under development as a waterfowl winter feeding ground by the Commission .. the thousands of geese which have been wintering there have completely consumed the residue of crops which survived Hurricane Hazel and have departed for other feeding grounds.

Gilchrist says adequate crops were planted in the fall to carry the geese through the winter and early spring, but the flooding of the fields with salt water from the lower James at the time of the hurricane created a situation over which the Commission had no control.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

NEWS FOR VETERANS

Eligible disabled veterans of post-Korean service may receive education or training at Government expense, with tuition, supplies and in many cases, subsistence allowance provided under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act (Public Law 16, 78th Congress, as amended), Veterans Administration said.

Disabled veterans may be eligible if: (1) they suffered a service-connected disability in active service since June 27, 1950, which would entitle them to compensation, or, but for the receipt of retirement pay, would entitle them to compensation; (2) they were discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, and (3) VA determines they need vocational training to overcome their handicap. All three conditions must be met.

Eligible veterans may get training of such character and length not to exceed four years as is necessary to restore their ability to work. Veterans may apply for vocational rehabilitation after discharge, or while hospitalized awaiting discharge.

Before disabled veterans begin training, they will be interviewed by VA counselors. If necessary, they will be given a series of tests to determine their aptitudes and interests. This, together with a review of the veterans' educational and employment experiences, will enable the VA counselor and training officer to advise the veterans as to the training they can get.

Eligible veterans may be: (1) enrolled in schools or colleges; (2) placed in apprenticeship or other on-the-job training; or (3) entered in institutional on-farm training programs or other programs which combine school and job training.

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Chick Chats

For poultry raisers who like to sell eggs when the price is high, it will soon be time to start chicks. Early started chicks bring in more egg dollars because egg prices are higher during the last six months of the year .. the time when early chicks are laying.

In some years, egg prices are higher during every one of the last six months of the year than during any one of the first six months. Generally, this same price relationship has existed for more than 50 years.

More chicks are started in April than in any other month. These chicks start to lay as pullets sometime in September or October. By November, they are in good production. In December, as the pullets continue to lay well, egg prices start downward. The pullets will lay most of their eggs in the first half of the next year—when egg prices are lowest.

Compare the above schedule with that of early chicks, started in January. As pullets in June, these birds will start to lay. By late July they will be in top production. Top production will coincide with top prices in August, September, October and November, a profitable combination.

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Some poultrymen delay starting their chicks simply because of habit. However, the milder weather that can be expected later in the spring is probably the main reason for late chicks. Poultry ranges are then beginning to get warm; a chick is soon able to help "raise itself."

But a fact that no poultryman can afford to overlook is that, over the past 40 years, the man who started chicks early has averaged about one-third more for his eggs than the late starter. This price advantage has been more than enough to offset extra cost of caring for chicks in cooler weather.

So it's time to place your order now for chicks in January or February. Hatcherymen like to know early the number of chicks you will need (some hatcherymen offer early order discounts). Most important to you is that you will be able to get your chicks on time.

It's time also to clean and disinfect the brooder house, eliminate drafts, check brooder equipment and obtain any other equipment you may need. Test the stove for operating efficiency. Also, inspect all wiring, cables and electrical equipment.

Your early chicks will have to spend a lot of time in the brooder house when the outside air is cold. Make the house as comfortable as possible. The payoff comes when your birds lay those "high - priced" eggs.

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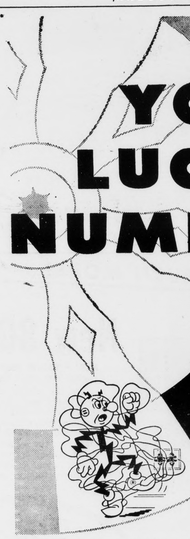

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